2. *Reduction in T&D Losses*: Concerted efforts on the part of the SEBs have brought down T&D losses for the year 1992-93 to 21.8 per cent as compared to 22.83 per cent in 1991-92 reducing the losses by 1.03 per cent.

3. *Tariff Rationalisation*: The following SEBs have revised their tariffs during 1992-93 and 1993-94:—

"Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Assam.

The following States and Union Territories have implemented the minimum agricultural tariff of 50 paise per kwh for metered supply:—

Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Assam Meghalaya, Goa, Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim, Mizoram, Tripura, Delhi and Dadra and Nagar haveli.

4. *Settlement of Outstanding Dues of SEBs*: The SEBs have been advised to clear the outstanding dues of Central Sector generating Corporations. SEBs have been advised to open LCs to the extent of 105 per cent of their average monthly billing both in respect of supply of power and transmission charges. MOUs have been signed with most of the SEBs with respect to supply of power/transmission charges by the NTPC/Powergrid with he provision for disconnecting electricity supply to the State on non-payment of dues. In order to ensure that disputed bills are settled expeditiously, Regional Umpires have since been appointed in two Regions. Further, recovery from Central Plan Assistance to the States concerned has also been resorted to.

5. *Expenditions Utilisation of Available External Assistance*: There has been a step up in the utilisation of external assistance in view of the emphasis placed by the Ministry of Power on speedy execution of projects receiving external assistance.

6. *Promoting Private Sector Participation in Power Generation and Distribution*: In order to encourage private sector participation in power generation and distribution the Government have evolved a package of incentives and guidelines for private power development. The government is constantly inter-acting with prospective entrepreneurs, Chambers of commerce, Trade Associations, State governments and SEBs in this regard. Around 1349 MW of new capacity is currently under construction in the private sector and a new Licensee company has started functioning. Further around expressions of interest, out of which 35 are from Companies based abroad, for putting up a generating capacity of 32662 MW valued at Rs. 1,04,152 crores and for setting up two distribution companies have been received.

Refusal by railways to sign tripartite agreement

2022. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several foreign investment proposals in the power sector are pending as the Railways have refused to sign the tripartite agreement for transporation of coal to the proposed power plants;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have rejected the punitive clause and have refused to accord priority status to these power plants as incorporated in the agreement;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and whether the agreements reached between the Power Ministry and other foreign investors have been stopped; and

(d) if so, whether any alternative is being considered together with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.